project is at present at a preliminary stage. During the recent visit of Minister (P&NG) to Qatar on 21st November, 2005, he briefly discussed with the Minister of Energy & Industry of Qatar the possibilities of this project taking off in the near future. The Qatari Minister did not appear very hopeful, citing technological problems and the non-availability of gas for the project as the reasons.,

Promotion of Natural Gas with Germany's Assistance

†688. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA:
SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are contemplating to take assistance from Germany to promote natural gas in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress made in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government. However, a German company, M/s PLE Pipeline Engineering GmbH, has completed the detailed feasibility report (DFR), environment management plan (EMP) and Rapid Risk Analysis (RRA) for the Kakinada-Haldia natural gas pipeline of GAIL. Another German company, M/s Dorsch, is doing DFR, EMP and RRA for GAIL's Jagdishpur-Haldia pipeline.

Discrimination against SC/ST Employees

689. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR:
SHRI DHARAMPAL SABHARWAL:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that different rules and policies are being followed by all the three wings of Indian Oil Corporation i.e Marketing, Pipeline and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Refinery wings pertaining to promotions and transfer of their employees;

(b) whether it is also a fact that employees belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are particularly transferred to far-off places in the country while others are retained at one place upto 20-25 years or more or are posted at the places of their choices; and

(c) whether there is any machinery to look into or check such discrimination against the SC and ST employees?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Promotion and transfers/postings of employees in Indian Oil are governed by the laid down policies taking into consideration Division specific requirements. Since the operations of various Divisions differ in nature, the processes followed by them also differ in approach and implementation.

As regards transfers, the policies for workmen are Division specific, whereas, for officers, the norms for transfer are common across Divisions.

(b) Transfers/postings of employees, including those belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are governed by the guidelines applicable to all employees.

(c) There is a designated Liaison Officer in each Division, normally not below the rank of Head of Department to look into the grievances of the SC and ST employees including matters pertaining to transfers and postings.

Non-availability of LPG cylinders

690. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:
DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY:
SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:
SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL:
SHRI AJAY MAROO:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there had been an acute shortage of L.P.G. cylinders during the month of September and October, 2005 in the capital;